

3. (amended) A method according to Claim 1 [or Claim 2], wherein the foam is dried at a temperature which is reduced over time.

Please amend claim 6 as follows.

6. (amended) A method according to Claim 1 [or 2] wherein the foam is dried at a temperature which increases and then decreases.

Please amend Claim 7 as follows.

7. (amended) A method according to [any of Claims 1-6] Claim 1 comprising passing the foam through a first zone at a temperature of about 110-130°C for a period of about 8-15 minutes, passing the foam through a second zone at a temperature of about 70-90°C for a period of about 8-15 minutes and passing the foam through a third zone at a temperature of about 20-40°C for about 8-15 minutes.

Please amend Claim 8 as follows.

8. (amended) A method according to [any of Claims 1-7] Claim 1, wherein the pressure in the vacuum chamber is maintained below 50mbar.

Please amend Claim 9 as follows.

9. (amended) A method according to [any of Claims 1-8] Claim 1, wherein the drying is carried out in a belt dryer within the vacuum chamber and the method comprises evenly distributing the solution over the belt of the dryer.

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Please amend Claim 14 as follows.

a4 14. (amended) A powder according to Claim 12 [or  
13] containing 60% or more lactulose by weight.

Please delete Claim 16 and Claim 19.

A clean version of the Amended Claims and pages 2  
and 2A of the Specification are enclosed.

Please charge any fee due to Deposit Account  
No. 08-2442.

Respectfully submitted,  
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8. (amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the pressure in the vacuum chamber is maintained below 50mbar.

5 9. (amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the drying is carried out in a belt dryer within the vacuum chamber and the method comprises evenly distributing the solution over the belt of the dryer.

10 10. A method of drying a lactulose solution comprising subjecting the solution to conditions of raised temperature and reduced pressure so that the solution expands into a foam, and drying the foam thereby produced.

15 11. A method according to Claim 10 wherein the foam is obtained at a temperature of at least 100°C and a pressure no greater than 50mbar.

20 12. A dry, lactulose-containing powder having a moisture content of 8% or less by weight and being substantially free of swelling or drying agent.

25 13. A powder according to Claim 12 having a moisture content of 6% or less by weight.

14. (amended) A powder according to Claim 12 containing 60% or more lactulose by weight.

30 15. A powder according to Claim 14 containing 65% or more lactulose by weight.

16. (deleted)

35 17. A dry, lactulose-containing foam.

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18. A dry foam according to Claim 17 having a moisture content of 8% or less by weight.

19. (deleted)

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Clean Version of Amended Claims

1. A method of drying a lactulose solution, comprising  
introducing the solution into a vacuum chamber at  
5 elevated temperature and at reduced pressure so that the  
solution forms a foam;  
drying the foam under reduced pressure; and  
optionally, milling or grinding or breaking the  
dried foam into powder.  
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2. A method according to Claim 1 comprising extruding  
the solution through a nozzle so that the solution foams  
as it exits the nozzle.
- 15 3. (amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein  
the foam is dried at a temperature which is reduced over  
time.
- 20 4. A method according to Claim 3 comprising passing  
the foam through a plurality of drying zones, each zone  
being at a different temperature, the temperature of the  
zones reducing from one zone to the next.
- 25 5. A method according to Claim 4 comprising passing  
the foam through a first zone at a temperature of at  
least 100°C and passing the foam through a final zone at  
a temperature of 50°C or less.
- 30 6. (amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein  
the foam is dried at a temperature which increases and  
then decreases.
- 35 7. (amended) A method according to Claim 1, comprising  
passing the foam through a first zone at a temperature  
of about 110-130°C for a period of about 8-15 minutes,  
passing the foam through a second zone at a temperature  
of about 70-90°C for a period of about 8-15 minutes and  
passing the foam through a third zone at a temperature  
of about 20-40°C for about 8-15 minutes.

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